

monthly paychecks are stagnant, forcing most families to stretch paychecks just to make ends meet.

This is not how our country is supposed to work. Unfortunately, Washington Republicans continue to ignore the needs of the middle class. Democrats have a proud history of fighting for working families and will take our country in a new direction, one where their needs are addressed, not ignored.

HONORING VIVIAN MOEGLEIN

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sincerest appreciation and thanks to Vivian Moeglein whose tenure as my legislative director comes to an end this Friday. Vivian will be leaving my office at the end of this week after serving the Third District of Arkansas for 10 years.

Her passion for the legislative process, devotion to the people of Arkansas, and her cheerful personality have made her a pleasure to work with, and I am fortunate to have had her on my staff.

Vivian began her service here on Capitol Hill as an intern for Congressman Asa Hutchinson while completing her undergraduate degree at the University of Maryland. Since that time, she has worked her way through the ranks as a staff assistant, office manager, legislative correspondent, legislative assistant, and finally as legislative director.

I was fortunate enough to keep her on the staff when I entered Congress in 2001 in a special election when she carefully steered me through the learning process each new Member of Congress must master.

Mr. Speaker, my staff and I will miss Vivian greatly, as will the Third Congressional District of Arkansas. We are extremely grateful for her tireless efforts on behalf of Arkansas and wish her the best of luck in all of her future endeavors.

WE NEED TO CHANGE COURSE IN IRAQ

(Mr. FILNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, a famous law of nature says that when you have dug yourself into a deep hole, the first thing to do is stop digging. That hole is Iraq. According to our own intelligence agents, the war in Iraq is actually fueling more terror worldwide, undermining the global war on terror. And yet this administration refuses to stop digging.

Conditions for our own troops are getting worse and worse. They are merely serving as referees in a civil war between Sunnis and Shias in which over 100 Iraqis die every day.

And our Army Chief of Staff, who I refer to as the Carl Sagan of the budg-

et, says we need billions and billions and billion of more dollars if we are going to keep the Army going in Iraq and elsewhere.

Last week, General Abizaid was asked if we were winning the war in Iraq; he said we would be if we had unlimited time and unlimited resources.

Yet in the face of all of this mismanagement, all of the death and destruction, our President has the nerve to say when history looks at Iraq, it will see a mere comma. A mere comma. What about the deaths of 2,700 of our bravest men and women, Mr. President? How about the injuries of 20,000 of our finest troops? It is time to stop digging and bring the troops home.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to the President.

NO CONGRESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS THIS YEAR

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, at the end of this week the Republican leadership is sending us home. They are going to spend the next 4 weeks trying to convince the American people that we have actually accomplished something this year. It is going to be a tough sell.

This is the most do-nothing Congress in American history. Back in 1948, President Harry Truman dubbed the Congress of that year the "do-nothing Congress" after it met for only 101 days. At the end of this week, this Congress will have only met for a total of 79 days. That is 22 days less than the do-nothing Congress of 1948. This is the do-less-than-nothing Congress.

And over those 79 days, House Republicans have not passed one piece of meaningful legislation into law. They have been putting on a lot of shows over the last few weeks trying to convince the American people they are actually accomplishing something. Don't believe them.

Here is the record. We are days away from a new fiscal year, Congress has not yet passed a budget. Republicans have been saying all year that immigration and border security are their top priority, but we leave this week without a law on either issue. It is no wonder the American people are fed up with Congress. It is time for a change.

IRAQ WAR CREATING MORE TERRORISTS, NOT LESS

(Ms. LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, for 5 weeks President Bush has been telling the American people that they are safer now than they were before 9/11 even though all 16 of his intelligence agencies were telling him that simply was not the case.

The Bush administration's own spy agencies say we are less safe today, and they put the blame on the President's decision to invade Iraq.

If President Bush and Republicans here in Congress are serious on winning the global war on terror, they would not ignore this classified report and would finally join us in coming up with a new strategy for Iraq.

It is clear that staying the course is simply not working. We have lost nearly 2,700 troops and spent upwards of \$320 billion. And yet there are still no positive developments on the ground. In fact, things seem to be getting worse as more than 100 Iraqis are now being killed every day.

Mr. Speaker, the war in Iraq and the occupation is making our Nation less safe. It is time that we redeploy our troops out of Iraq so we can finally achieve some form of national security. I mean real national security and real peace.

FAMILIES FACE RISING COSTS WITH FALLING WAGES

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, at the end of last week Forbes Magazine released their annual list of the 400 richest Americans. For the first time ever, this list was comprised entirely of billionaires. Not one millionaire made the list. 400 billionaires.

These are the types of people who benefited from the massive tax cuts pushed by President Bush and his Republican rubber-stamp allies here in this Congress.

The giveaway to the wealthiest Americans stands in stark contrast to the plight of millions of working people in my home State of New Jersey and throughout the Nation who have actually seen their wages fall by over \$3,000 over the past 6 years if you take inflation into account.

How are working Americans supposed to realize the American Dream when their wages remain stagnant, when all of their monthly bills are steadily rising? Over the past 6 years, the cost of health care has risen by 71 percent and the tuition of public colleges has gone up 57 percent. We must stop this. Let's stop benefiting the billionaires.

REMEMBERING LEO DIEHL

(Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, there is a cliché of the unsung